WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a networked computer system for transmitting messages from a source to a destination, an apparatus for managing the delivery of messages to said destination, said apparatus comprising:

means for tracking and guaranteeing the delivery of said messages to said destination;

means for monitoring said tracking and guaranteeing means from a single web site;

means for archiving said messages.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a database associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said monitoring means comprises an XML application program interface.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 further comprising means for conducting searches.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said monitoring means comprises a portal accessible via the Internet.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said monitoring means comprises:

a first server for receiving requests from a user via the Internet, said first server adapted to generate an XML message in response to said request;

a second server adapted to receive said XML message and to perform a function responsive to said XML message; and

means coupled to said second server for communicating the results of said function to said user.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said monitoring means further comprises means for distributing XML messages to said delivery means via the Internet, said XML messages containing operating instructions for changing the operation of said delivery means.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a database associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising means, associated with said monitoring means, for recovering at least one of said archived messages

10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said monitoring means comprises an XML application program interface (API) further comprising:

means for receiving a request for a function;

means for building an XML message;

means for interpreting said XML message, said interpreting means adapted to perform the requested function and returning an XML message to said building means; and

means for applying a XSL style sheet to the received XML message and sending the generated output to the user.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising means for conducting searches.

12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said receiving means comprises a portal accessible via the Internet.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said monitoring means comprises:

a first server for receiving requests from a user via the Internet, said first server adapted to generate an XML message in response to said request;

a second server adapted to receive said XML message and to perform a function responsive to said XML message; and

means coupled to said second server for communicating the results of said function to said user.

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said monitoring means further comprises means for distributing XML messages to said delivery means via the Internet, said XML messages containing operating instructions for changing the operation of said delivery means.

15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a database associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period.

16. A computer implemented method for exchanging information between trading partners where a source connector generates a message containing the information, said messages transmitted as a primary message to a destination connector over a first communication backbone and as a secondary message to said destination connector over a second communication backbone, said method comprising:

monitoring the transmission of said primary and secondary messages;

receiving a request from said trading partners via a web site, said request relating to the transmission of said message;

generating a response to said request, said response generated by querying at least one database having information relating to said primary and secondary messages; and

transferring said response to said trading partner.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period; and

transferring an invoice to the trading partner generating said message.

18. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising conducting searches for information responsive to said request stored in said database.

19. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

receiving requests from a user via the Internet;

generating an XML message in response to said request;

receiving said XML message at a server computer adapted to access information stored in said database;

performing a function responsive to said XML message; and

communicating the results of said function to said user.

20. The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said receiving and communicating steps utilize specific route points and a distributed communication network.

21. The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising the step of counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period.

22. The method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising recovering at least one of said archived messages in response to said request.

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23. A computer implemented method for exchanging information between trading partners in a distributed computer networking system in which each trading partner has a connector for initiating the transmission of a message along two separate communication backbones, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a message header for each message for which a charge is to be imposed; and

associating with said message header an indication of the time of delivery to the trading partner at the destination.

24. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said associating step includes the step of transmitting each message header to a billing database.

25. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said generating step includes the step of determining statistical information regarding transmission latency.

26. The method as claimed in claim 25 further comprising the step of providing said statistical information to a user through an Internet portal.

27. The method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

submitting a request through said portal;

identifying the user associated with said request;

accepting said request at a webserver, said webserver adapted to

building an XML message interpreting said request;

fetching information responsive to said XML message;

preparing a responsive XML message, said responsive XML message including said responsive information;

interpreting said responsive XML message;

sending said responsive information to the user associated with said request.

28. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said associating step includes the steps of:

transmitting each message header to a billing database, said message header including a sequence number; and

locating messages associated with a sequence number missing from said billing database;

deducting a charge from an account associated with the trading partner generating said message, said charge based on a user profile associated with said billing database.

29. The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the steps of:

configuring alerts;

monitoring the transmission of said messages;

generating an alert when a configured alert condition is detected.

30. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said generating step includes the step of notifying an alert recipient.